

**Amendments to the Specification:**

*Beginning at page 7, line 14, please amend the specification as follows:*

Fig. 2A shows an example functional block diagram of an embodiment of a sound system 200 according to the present invention which addresses the above problems. The sound system 200 comprises: (1) a mixer 120 that combines the singer's real-time voice signal from a microphone 130 via an input device 135, with the pre-recorded background song/music signal from a player 140, (2) an amplifier 150 that receives the mixed signal from the mixer 120 to provide amplification or gain boosting, (3) one or more speakers 160 to output the mixed and amplified audio signal, and (4) a dedicated channel 210 ~~220~~ for the vocal signal from the microphone 130 without using a mixing device.